



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

- WHEREAS: Direct support professionals, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals are the primary providers of publicly funded long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and
- WHEREAS: Direct support professionals must establish close, respectful, and trusting relationships with patients. Through their dedicated efforts, direct support professionals empower individuals with disabilities to live more independent lives so that they may more actively participate in their communities; and
- WHEREAS: Direct support professionals aid their clients with intimate personal care assistance on a daily basis by providing a broad range of individualized support. These services include job training and coaching, assisting those with disabilities to successfully live alongside their peers, teaching them to navigate home life through meal preparation, as well as administering medication and helping with bathing, dressing, and other aspects of daily life; and
- WHEREAS: Direct support professionals also provide transportation to school, work, religious services, medical appointments, and recreational activities, while also assisting in financial matters and helping with other general affairs; and
- WHEREAS: By providing essential services, direct support professionals help individuals with disabilities remain connected to family, friends, and other members of the community, while also allowing them to avoid more costly institutional care; and
- WHEREAS: Most direct support professionals are the primary earners of their families and often work multiple jobs to make ends meet; and
- WHEREAS: In 2017, the majority of direct support professionals were employed in home and community-based settings, and this trend is projected to increase over the next decade. There is a critical and growing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States, and it is important that we recognize these health care workers; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 9–15, 2018, as DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Rely*  
CHIEF OF STAFF